



General Assembly

February Session, 2000

Amendment

LCO No. 5203

Offered by:

REP. BOUGHTON, 138th Dist.

REP. HEAGNEY, 16th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5737

File No. 523

Cal. No. 416

***"An Act Concerning Underperforming Schools And
School Readiness."***

1 Strike section 9 in its entirety

2 After line 388 insert the following:

3 "Sec. 9. (a) There is established the Educational Funding 2000
4 Research Panel. The panel shall consist of one member appointed by
5 the Governor, who shall be a financial analyst and shall be the
6 chairperson of the panel; one member appointed by the speaker of the
7 House of Representatives, who shall be an attorney experienced in
8 constitutional law; one member appointed by the majority leader of
9 the House of Representatives, who shall be a professional educator;
10 one member appointed by the minority leader of the House of
11 Representatives, who shall be a professional educator with experience
12 in education finance; one member appointed by the president pro
13 tempore of the Senate, who shall be an attorney with experience in
14 education law; one member appointed by the majority leader of the
15 Senate, who shall be an economist; one member appointed by the

16 minority leader of the Senate, who shall be an economist; and the
17 chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of
18 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
19 education, or their designees.

20 (b) The panel shall evaluate constitutional requirements with
21 respect to education funding, the component parts of the current
22 education equalization aid grant formula pursuant to section 10-262h
23 of the general statutes, as amended, and programmatic grants to
24 determine if they accurately gage the educational funding needs of
25 students, the distinct educational needs of students and the ability of
26 municipalities to provide for those needs. The panel shall also examine
27 (1) basic student needs and the extent to which such needs are
28 reflected in the foundation level and the minimum expenditure
29 requirement; (2) additional student needs related to poverty, language,
30 learning disability, and achievement; (3) economic disparities between
31 municipalities and indices that accurately reflect such disparities; (4)
32 the availability of collateral funding sources; and (5) any other factors
33 that the task force deems to be appropriate.

34 (c) The panel shall make findings of fact and develop
35 recommendations regarding a formula or formulas for education
36 equalization aid grants that fairly and equitably distribute funding to
37 municipalities. Such report shall identify means and methods of
38 providing a funding level for all students and additional funding
39 based upon student need and municipal wealth. The panel shall also
40 recommend methods and timing of grant distribution that would
41 ensure that all education equalization aid grants are used for the
42 intended educational purposes. In developing such recommendations
43 the panel shall conduct fact-finding, hold public hearings and regional
44 forums, and accept public comments.

45 (d) The panel shall report its findings and recommendations, in
46 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor
47 and the General Assembly by January 1, 2001, with recommendations
48 for full implementation of the formula for the fiscal year ending June

49 30, 2002.

50 Sec. 10. This act shall take effect from its passage except that sections
51 1 to 8, inclusive, shall take effect July 1, 2000."